

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A thermoplastic elastomer composition ~~characterized in that the composition comprises comprising~~ (A) a conjugated diene-based polymer obtained by polymerizing a conjugated diene-based compound using a rare earth element compound-based catalyst and (B) a thermoplastic resin ~~at least one~~ selected from the group consisting essentially of a crystalline polyolefin-based resin and an amorphous polyolefin-based resin.

Claim 2 (Original): The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 1, wherein the conjugated diene-based polymer (A) is one obtained by polymerizing the conjugated diene-based compound using a catalyst containing the following components (a) to (d) as main components

Component (a): a compound containing a rare earth element having an atomic number of 57-31 in the Periodic Table or a compound obtained by reaction of the compound with a Lewis base;

Component (b): an alumoxane;

Component (c): an organoaluminum compound corresponding to $AlR^1R^2R^3$ (wherein R^1 and R^2 , which may be the same or different, represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a hydrogen atom, and R^3 represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, provided that R^3 may be the same as or different from the above R^1 or R^2); and

Component (d): a silicon halide compound and/or a halogenated organosilicon compound.

Claim 3 (Original): The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 1, wherein the component (a) is neodymium.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the conjugated diene-based compound is 1,3-butadiene.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the conjugated diene-based polymer preferably has a 1,4-cis bond content of 90% or more, and a ratio (Mw/Mn) of a weight-average molecular weight (Mw) to a number-average molecular weight (Mn) of 3.5 or less as measured by gel permeation chromatography.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the composition is obtained by dynamic heat treatment of the conjugated diene-based polymer (A) and the thermoplastic resin ~~at least one~~ selected from the group consisting essentially of a crystalline polyolefin-based resin and an amorphous polyolefin-based resin (B) under the presence of a crosslinking agent.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the conjugated diene-based polymer (A) is from 50 to 95 parts by weight and the thermoplastic resin ~~at least one~~ selected from the group consisting essentially of a crystalline polyolefin-based resin and an amorphous polyolefin-based resin (B) is from 50 to 5 parts by weight, wherein the sum of (A) and (B) is equal to 100 parts by weight [~~provided that (A)+(B)=100 parts by weight~~].

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the composition ~~may contain~~ further contains a softener and/or a plasticizer in an amount of 200 parts by weight or less, when the total of the conjugated diene-based polymer (A) and the thermoplastic resin ~~at least one~~ selected from the group consisting essentially of a crystalline polyolefin-based resin and an amorphous polyolefin-based resin (B) is taken as 100 parts by weight.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A formed article ~~formed of~~ prepared from the thermoplastic elastomer composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

The amendments to the specification are made to correct grammatical errors and to better conform to U.S. patent practice. The phrase “selected from the group consisting of a crystalline polyolefin-based resin and an amorphous polyolefin-based resin” which is found at page 3, lines 11-13, page 4, lines 16-18 and page 5, lines 6-8, finds support at page 4, lines 15-17. The claims have been amended to correct the multiple dependencies and to also better conform to U.S. patent practice. No new matter is believed to have been entered.